

Investing in California Small Businesses

SMALL BUSINESS NEWSLETTER • Volume 10: Issue 4

FALL 2022



Small Business Program

The Authority is committed to small businesses playing a major role in building the statewide high-speed rail system. The Small Business Program has an aggressive 30 percent goal for small business participation including Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) and Micro-Business (MB).

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To access and download more information pertaining to the small business program, visit the Small Business Resources webpage at <https://hsr.ca.gov/small-business/>

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To view past newsletters visit:

<https://hsr.ca.gov/business-opportunities/small-business-program/small-business-newsletter/>

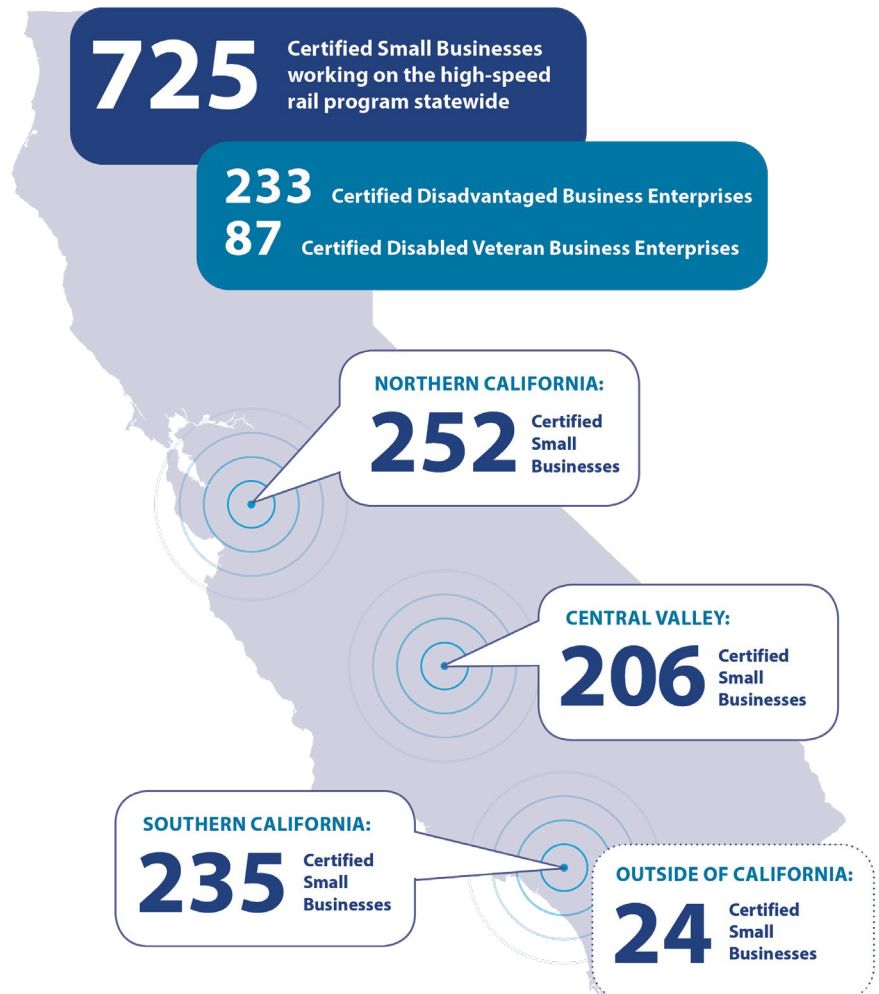
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SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

as of August 31, 2022





"We currently have 87 Certified DVBEs contributing to the high-speed rail program from across the state."

Ashley Mistler
Small Business Advocate
California High-Speed Rail Authority

As we look towards rounding out the year, there is so much good news to report out about California's high-speed rail program. First things first, I want to take the opportunity to thank Catrina Blair, the Authority's Process and Program Development Chief, for stepping in and providing updates through the August edition of the newsletter as I was out. Thanks, Catrina!

In October, the Small Business Newsletter received an honorable mention in the [2022 PR News Platinum Awards – External Publication Campaigns category](#). It is beyond exciting to see our newsletter get national recognition. I also want to take an opportunity to thank the small business newsletter team for developing these quarterly newsletters for our faithful small business audiences. We work closely with the Authority's Office of Strategic Communications and the Multimedia Branch to produce these quarterly newsletters.

In our August issue, we shared the news that the Legislature and the Governor approved a state budget bill in June that appropriated the remaining \$4.2 billion in voter-approved Proposition 1A funding for high-speed rail. In addition, the bill contained a multi-year transportation package in the

budget that totaled \$15 billion, with \$10.8 billion of funding marked for transit projects. We have several procurements currently in the pipeline here at the Authority to move the program forward, so it's more important than ever to make sure you get registered with our [ConnectHSR Vendor Registry](#), and if you already are, that your information is up to date.

This fall, the Newsom administration continued to take steps to support small business in California. On September 21, he [announced](#) \$1.1 billion in funding to support California's small businesses. The funding comes from the U.S. Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) and is intended to leverage an additional \$18 billion of capital to California small businesses. Later in the month, he [marked the signing of legislation](#) that will boost small businesses and encourage employee entrepreneurship. One of the highlights of the legislation is that it will codify a 25% small business goal for state procurement and enhance the ability of state agencies to include small and underserved businesses in state contracting.

Before we get into what we're doing here at the Authority, I wanted to make sure you know about an Executive Order, issued in September, that requires that departments must designate a Target Area Contract Preference Act (TACPA) liaison. This TACPA liaison, as well as existing Purchasing Authority Contacts (PAC), must complete mandatory TACPA training offered by the Department of



General Services before December 30, 2022, and ongoing as new TACPA liaisons and PACs are designated. More to come on this for the Authority. [DGS' website contains all current and historic Broadcast Bulletins](#) and is available to the public.

At the Authority, we have made several changes to our program as we look to continually improve our partnership with small businesses. Recently, we moved our Small Business Contracts Compliance Unit to the Administrative Office in the Process



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and Program Development Branch. This reorganization ensures that, as the Small Business Advocate, I now oversee all aspects of the Authority's small business program from compliance to process to outreach. Since this reorganization, we have found opportunities to streamline processes and improve our data collection.

We also finalized our revisions and updates to our bylaws that govern the Authority's Business Advisory Council (BAC) based on input and feedback from the BAC and our small business community. Starting in January 2023, we are shifting from quarterly BAC meetings to holding them every other month. We also continue to expand our membership on the BAC, and most recently have created two new committees: Legislative and Outreach – to join our existing Construction and Professional Services committees. We are looking to ramp up our outreach efforts starting next year, so stay tuned for more information.

I am also excited to share with you that my team and I have been working on a new, interactive website that will provide small businesses with more resources about how to do business with the Authority and the State. This website will include how-to videos and other instructional tools to help walk small businesses through the process of getting certified, getting on contracts and staying in compliance. More to come on that in the following months.

Before I close this column, I would like to touch on the theme of this issue, which is recognizing the upcoming Veteran's Day holiday on November 11, and the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE) that make up such an important part of our business community. We currently have 87 Certified DVBEs contributing to the high-



speed rail program from across the state. In this issue, we look at how to become a certified service-disabled veteran-owned small business and talk with Ivor Newman from the California Capital PTAC, which provides an array of services that address the needs of veterans who want to expand their business by including government contracting. We also take a more in-depth look at some of our DVBEs working on the project today. We thank you for your service!

Happy holidays from all of us to all of you and yours and see you all soon!

1. The Authority's Small Business Newsletter recently received national recognition as it was honored in the 2022 PR News Platinum Awards.
2. A worker high atop the Cedar Viaduct structure in south Fresno. The 3,700-foot Cedar Viaduct will carry high-speed trains over State Route 99, North and Cedar avenues.
3. Members of the Authority's Small Business Team joined the Connecting Points Expo in May.

Small Business Events

November 17, 2022
California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting
Time TBD
Sacramento (specific site TBD)

December 15, 2022
California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting
Time TBD
Sacramento (specific site TBD)

December 8, 2022
Business Advisory Council
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Webcast Meeting Online



November 10, 2022
[How to Do Business with the Government](#)
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Online

Did you know government agencies purchase almost everything - from custodial, construction and IT, to pencils, pet food, and even goats for grazing! Join the NorCal PTAC to discover the opportunities and requirements of doing business with the government. We'll help you determine if selling to the government is right for you and teach you the basics of how to get started and how to be successful. This webinar will give you a run-down of what you need to know and how you can prepare for success in the government marketplace. From "Am I ready?" to submitting your first proposal, this webinar will set you on the path towards winning contracts with local, state, and federal agencies.



November 9, 2022
[How to Locate Bid Opportunities](#)
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Online

Are you a vendor seeking to do business with the government? Join the Inland Empire SBDC for this free training that will discuss the process to locate bid opportunities. There will be a hands-on portion to this session where we will complete a portal registration. You will receive the link for this webinar the day before.

December 8, 2022
[Marketing Your Business for Government Contracts 101](#)
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Online

California Capital PTAC is offering a 90-minute hands-on workshop focusing on the Why, How and to Who you should market your business in particular, the product and/or service you are providing. The instructor will provide specific information as to why you should be marketing your product/service, how to market your product/service, and to what particular entity it should be marketed to.

December 13, 2022
[Northern California PTAC Project Management](#)
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Virtual Event

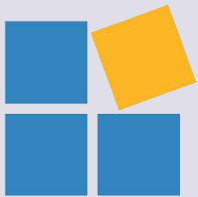
The California High-Speed Rail Authority Small Business Program along with [Norcal PTAC](#) will host a "Project Management for Public Works" event on December 13, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

This workshop will cover the sequence of events that occur when a contractor is awarded a contract. Subject matter covered will include mobilization, preparing a schedule, submittals, progress payments, efficient project management, change orders, and all related contract administrative requirements.

Speedreads

East Coast High-Speed Rail in Australia Could Become a Reality

Australia is proposing a new high-speed rail system connecting Sydney to Newcastle and Melbourne to Brisbane. [The federal proposal would connect the cities with trains going more than 250 kilometers \(155 miles\) per hour.](#) The first step will be planning the Sydney to Newcastle section which the Australian government has backed with an initial \$500 million commitment. Planning will also include fast trains connecting Brisbane and Melbourne with stops in Canberra, Sydney and regional centers. (image courtesy of infrastructureaustralia.gov.au)



The B. John Garrick Institute for the Risk Sciences

UCLA ENGINEERING

Authority Sponsored Fault Displacement Research and Workshop

The California High-Speed Rail Authority has provided financial support to an international research effort at the UCLA Engineering B. John Garrick Institute for Risk Studies. The study focuses on monumental expansion of the available historical Fault Displacement data to improve Fault Displacement estimates for major international infrastructure and civil projects. The results of this study will have direct impact to the California high-speed rail program to reduce uncertainties of Fault Displacement predictions where the alignment crosses active faults, to be accounted for in the engineering and design efforts.

The UCLA Natural Hazards Risk and Resiliency Research Center (NHR3) and its partners will hold a free online workshop to present their developed new database and set of models for estimating fault displacement amplitudes on Thursday, November 10 at 9:00 a.m. Interested parties may register at <https://www.risksciences.ucla.edu/nhr3/fdhi-workshop>.

TGV Unveils High-speed Trains of the Future

The collaboration between French railway company SNCF and train maker Alstom has borne fruit: [the first completed TGV M](#). TGV stands for Train à Grand Vitesse (high-speed train) and this new model is a double-decker train featuring a longer, more aerodynamic nose design. It is set to hit the Paris rails in 2024, and most of the trains will operate in France with only 15 taking international routes. Additionally, according to Alstom, the design improves TGV's current energy efficiency and carbon footprint, with 97% of the train's components now recyclable. The trains are also bigger, more customizable, accessible and with better views. (image courtesy of Xavier Leoty/AFP/Getty Images)



Germany's €9 Ticket Promotion Pays Off

Germany recently ran a three-month experiment selling tickets for a month's unlimited travel on regional train networks, trams and buses for only €9. Since its introduction on June 1, the program has [saved about 1.8 million tons of CO₂ emissions](#), [relieved the cost-of-living crisis in the country](#) and [sold 52 million tickets—a fifth of which went to people who do not usually use public transport](#). The emissions saved during the promotion were the equivalent of powering approximately 350,000 homes. (image courtesy of Lisi Niesner/Reuters)

To Fight Inflation, Spain Offers Free Train Tickets

In an effort to fight inflation and the rising cost of living, Spain recently made train journeys under 186 miles (300 kilometers) free until the end of the year. Passengers, both [residents and tourists are eligible for free rides on local trains and medium-range routes between cities with a travel card](#). In the first morning alone, nearly 100,000 people in Madrid used the free admission program. The program is paid for with a government subsidy of more than 220 million euros. (photo courtesy of Isabel Infantes/Reuters)



Veteran Owned Business Demonstrates Commitment to Quality

"We don't design or build products; we facilitate all the processes that help others design and build products successfully."

Laura Uden
NSI Engineering President

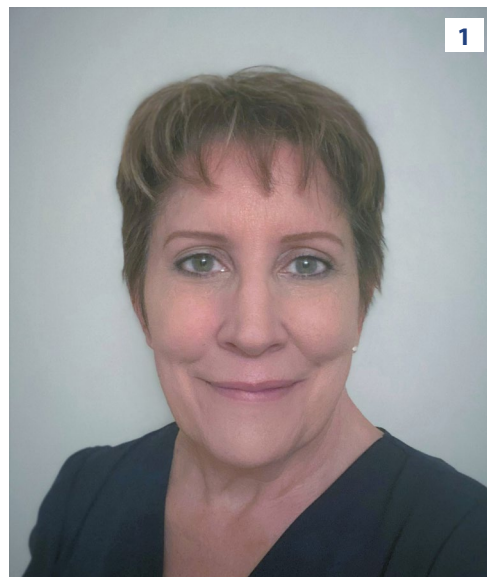


There can be thousands of reasons for a project to fail, but there are no excuses. Organizations must define, integrate and improve processes to ensure success.

Even the most experienced project teams would find it difficult to effectively manage a complex project without individuals with in-depth knowledge and skills focused on developing capabilities and performing assessments that identify strengths and weaknesses.

Through 20 years of practice, San José-based [NSI Engineering](#) has developed strategies that help organizations sustain a culture of continuous improvement. "We don't design or build products; we facilitate all the processes that help others design and build products successfully," said NSI Engineering President Laura Uden. "From process improvement and tools such as root cause analysis to cultural definition and strategic planning, NSI develops systems that empower teams to achieve immediate and long-term goals."

Before forming NSI Engineering, Uden served in the military. "I joined the Army to get money for college. It was a fair trade;



1. Serving in the military allowed NSI Engineering President Laura Uden to pursue her education. She ultimately received a doctorate in Management and Management Science before founding the company in 2009.

2. Carrie Cabak is a Quality Consultant for NSI Engineering.

some time for my country exchanged for some college funding for me. I was in military intelligence and stationed in Japan and Germany. It was very interesting work, and I learned a lot about the world," said Uden. "I was already a physics major before I went into the Army, so I continued my degree." After completing her service commitment, Uden left the military with the rank of Sergeant and ultimately received bachelor's and master's degrees in Industrial and Systems Engineering and a doctorate in Management and Management Science.

Uden went on to teach industrial engineering, systems engineering and process improvement at San José State



University and founded NSI Engineering in 2004 while working on a project to build a nuclear-powered spacecraft. The certified woman, disadvantaged and disabled veteran-owned small business, now employing several veterans as well as engineers and project management specialists, develops and implements solutions for various industries, including large infrastructure construction.

Uden began providing quality assurance for the high-speed rail project in 2009, writing quality management procedures, conducting audits and providing oversight for the [San Francisco to San José project section](#).

Over the years, the company completed multiple contracts on California high-speed rail. "We're currently on two contracts, and we just won another that's about to start up," said Uden. "The new contract is in the Central Valley, and we were on a few others, including the PCM team providing oversight of the design-builder on CP 4."

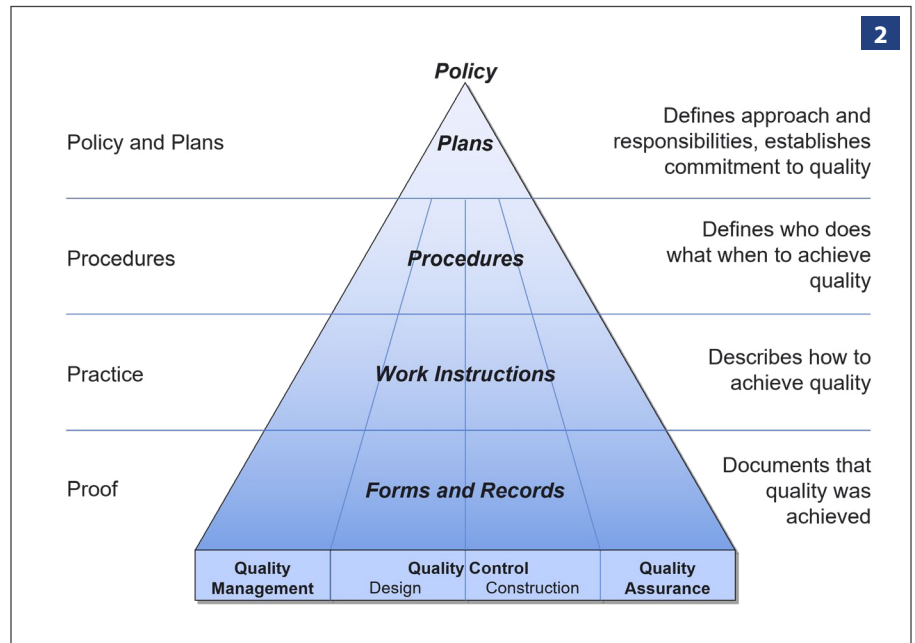
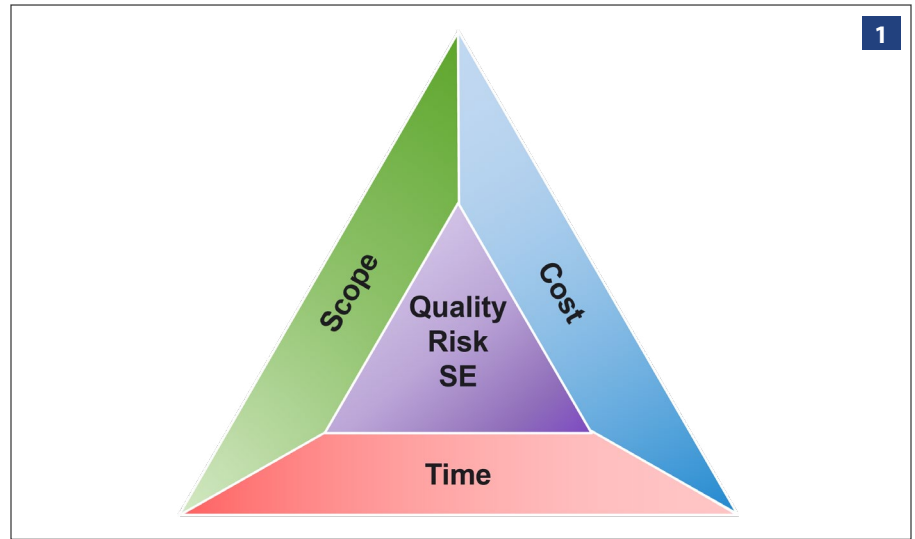
Uden is also an active [Business Advisory Council](#) (BAC) member. The BAC acts as a forum to facilitate discussion on how to increase the engagement of small businesses and ensure their equitable inclusion on the high-speed rail project.

Initially, Uden joined the BAC as an alternate in 2015, representing disabled veteran business owners. "I realized I wanted to support the group more than just attending meetings, so I decided to get involved," said Uden. "Since I'm an engineer, I'm on the Professional Services Committee. I started as a secretary, followed by vice-chair, and now I'm currently chair."

An engaged team that understands the importance of systems-based thinking and risk-based analysis is on a path to success. "At NSI Engineering, we provide systems engineering and project, risk and quality management services to help project teams meet requirements and improve outcomes," said Uden.

Anthony Lopez

1. The Project Management Triangle, also known as the Triple Constraints of Project Management, is often used to explain the primary focus areas for project managers. When any of the three outer constraints are modified, it potentially impacts the ability to achieve requirements.
2. The Quality Management Pyramid is a tool used to manage quality systems. The model provides a clear framework for organizations and allows for consistent processes and a better understanding of quality documentation.
3. NSI Engineering has prepared quality manuals for numerous transit agencies to implement project quality control programs that ensure compliance with standards, regulations and requirements.



Veteran Owned Business Equipping CP 2-3 for Success

Sam's Equipment & Supplies



"We work with some great contractors. We've created great working relationships and have been working with the same contractors for several years but continue to look for new contracts,"

Sam Callison
Owner
Sam's Equipment & Supplies

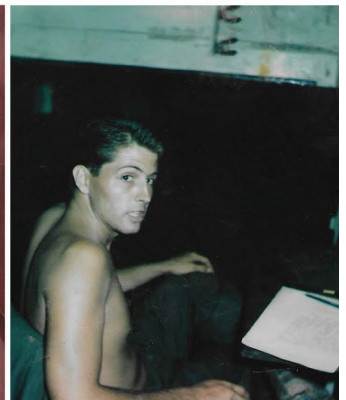
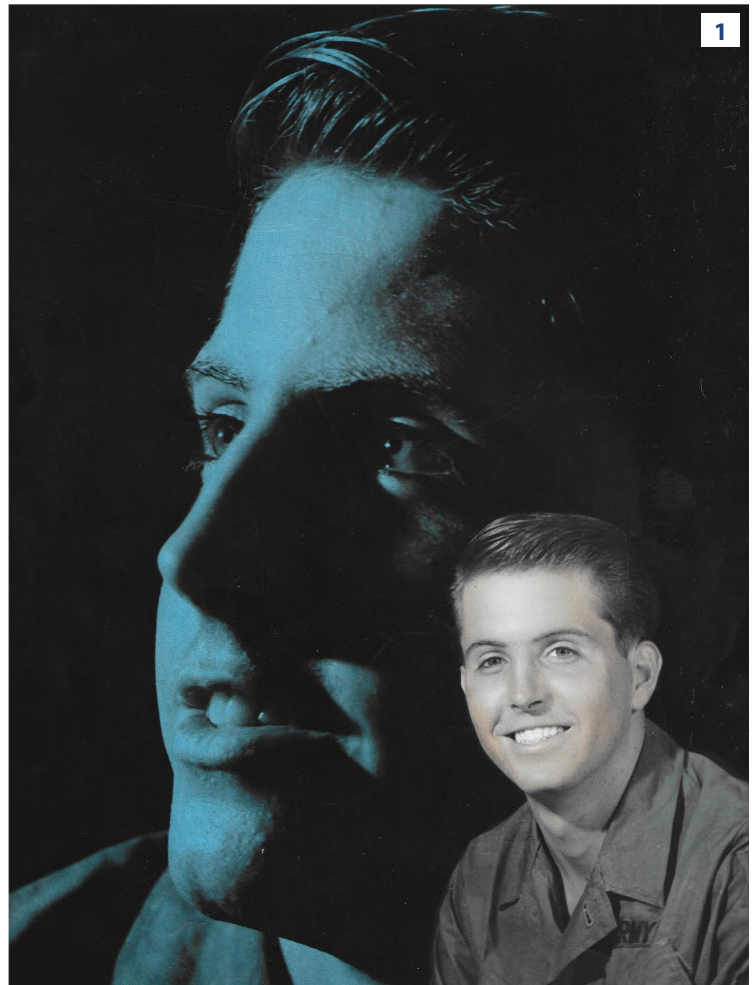
Construction is booming within Construction Package (CP) 2-3 in the Central Valley. With construction comes traffic control, or simply put, road and lane closures. Essential in the build out of the nation's first high-speed rail project, companies like Sam's Equipment & Supplies in Fresno play an integral role in the safety of our workers and drivers near construction.

Sam's Equipment & Supplies was founded by Sam Callison in 1990, but providing construction equipment for purchase or rental to private companies goes back years before becoming certified as a Disadvantaged Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE).

Now, the next generation is helping run the business with his son Gabe Callison stepping in.

"My dad is a veteran. Vietnam vet. Our family was always in the equipment rental business, but my dad spent several years getting his classification through the Veterans Hospital because he got hurt in Vietnam. Once he got his status, after that, we went through the process to become a DVBE," said Gabe Callison about his father and the business.

Sam's Equipment & Supplies takes pride in the quality products they provide and competitive pricing. With a majority of their work coming from State of California departments like CalTrans and the





California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), Sam's provides a wide range of products like heavy equipment rentals and sales, underground pipe including PVC, HDPE and steel pipes, guard rails, and even playground equipment.

He and his dad learned about the high-speed rail project by attending "Meet the Prime" events held by the Authority's Small Business Program and contractors between Bakersfield and Sacramento.

In 2018, Sam's began working with Dragados-Flatiron Joint Venture in CP 2-3, providing the contractor with construction equipment and rentals of large concrete k-rail utilized for traffic control at various closures for construction.

A temporary concrete k-rail barrier can weigh as much as 8,000 pounds each, Callison noted during an interview. The contractor can have as many as 15-20 k-rail barriers from Sam's out in use at a time in CP 2-3.

Including working on State projects, Sam's Equipment & Supply has also worked on federal projects as a certified Service-Disabled

Veteran-Owned Small Business through the [US Department of Defense, Office of Small Business Programs](#).

Sam's Equipment & Supply is the only DVBE in the Central Valley providing traffic control equipment rentals and takes pride in the relationships they've built in the area.

"We work with some great contractors. We've created great working relationships and have been working with the same contractors for several years but continue to look for new contracts," added Callison.

Sam's Equipment & Supplies is located in Fresno, California.

Augie Blancas

1. Sam Callison is a Vietnam Veteran turned business owner opening Sam's Equipment & Supplies in 1990.
2. Still managing the company, his son Gabe Callison helps with operations and is the lead estimator for the company.

Planning for an Environmentally Sound Future



ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW
PARTNERS, INC

“High-speed rail is really beneficial because it’s causing a mode shift from automobile travel and air travel,”

Keith Cooper
Founding Principal
Environmental Review Partners, Inc.

Keith Cooper launched Environmental Review Partners, Inc. (ERP), his Los Angeles-based environmental planning firm, in February 2021 with 24 years of experience. “I had risen as far as I could rise in [my former firm], and I wasn’t interested in doing a lateral move to another organization,” said Cooper. “I was looking for the next challenge. I just woke up one day and realized ‘Wow, I’m in the perfect position to go out on my own.’”

Starting his own firm was challenging. “I am a disabled veteran and a minority,” Cooper noted. “You hear about these participation requirements for DVBE, DBE and even SBE. It certainly gives you a leg up, but the real challenge is getting into a position to submit a bid.” He struggled to get support from the Small Business Administration. “I understand now they don’t want to throw good resources after a firm that’s not going anywhere, but they wanted me to get to a point to where I really didn’t need them before they would help.”

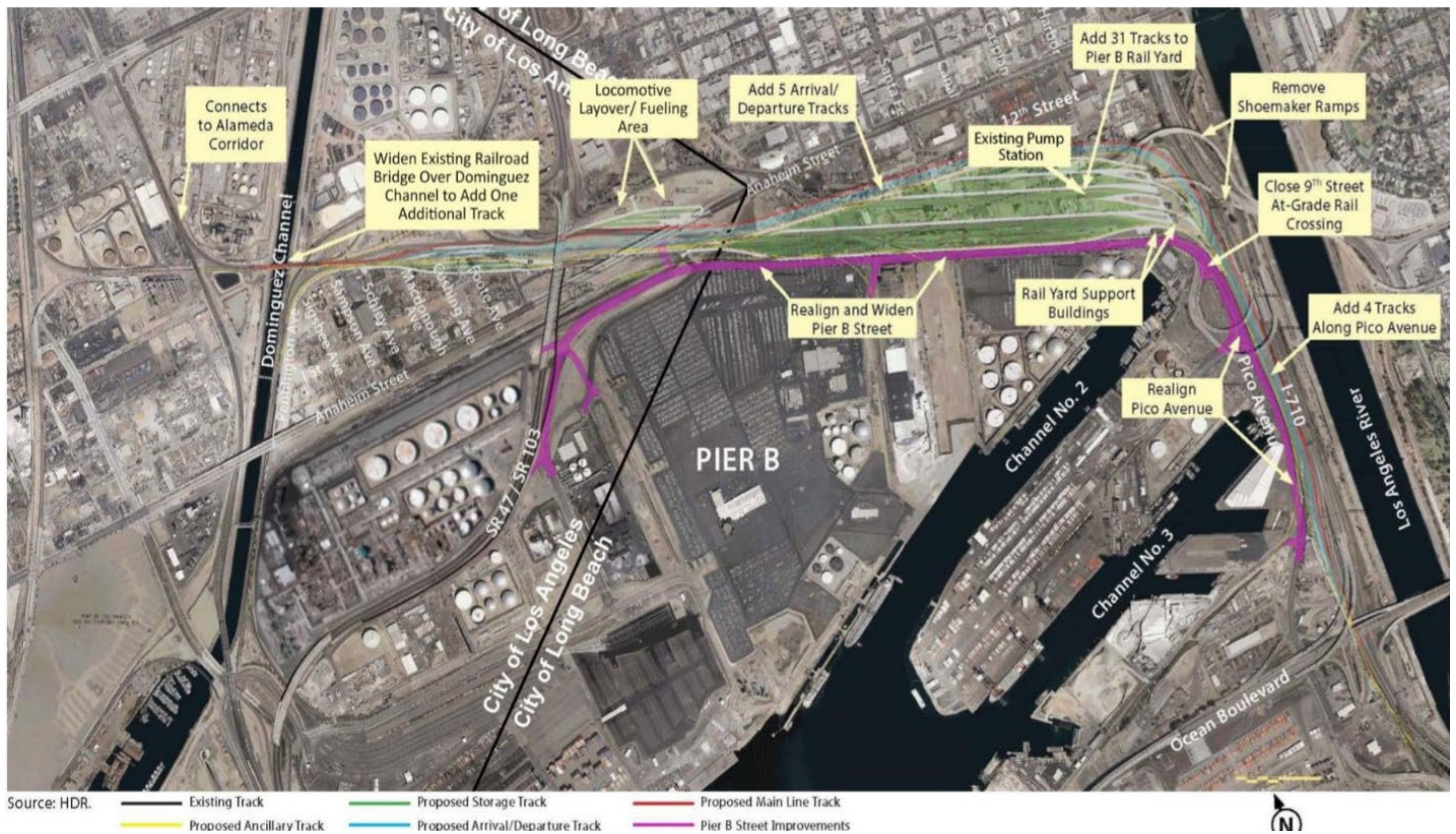
Cooper also missed the support staff at his former firm, ICF. He does all his own paperwork, including prework for bid and development, invoicing and Federal Acquisition Regulation compliant



In addition to quantifying construction- and operations-period impacts to local and regional air quality in the Los Angeles to Anaheim project section, ERP is responsible for evaluating how proposed project-related modifications to two intermodal railyards would affect cancer risks at project vicinity residential uses.



1. Keith Cooper, founder of ERP.
2. Blake Barroso, Cooper's first hire at ERP who has been "instrumental for the work that ERP does for the Authority."



ERP prepared the analysis and documentation for the Port of Long Beach Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Project used to secure the project's general conformity determination. In addition, ERP prepared the air quality analysis supporting two federal grant applications.

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, Combined Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision and Final Section 4(f) Evaluation

accounting. "You just can't use QuickBooks, unfortunately," said Cooper.

Cooper worked with the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) at ICF, so it made sense to stay on the Los Angeles to Anaheim project section. It took longer than expected to get under contract and receive revenue, but "cash flow is pretty quick compared to other clients... [the Authority] has been a big help."

ERP ensures the project section satisfies emissions requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Air Act. To do this, they use a variety of emission factor models, dispersion models and risk assessments. "High-speed rail is really beneficial because it's causing a

mode shift from automobile travel and air travel," said Cooper.

Eventually, Cooper plans to raise awareness of his field, especially with people of color. "It's a very rewarding career but sadly not a very diverse field," Cooper stated. "It's all about exposure though: you don't know what you don't know." He wants to create internships for people to learn about urban and environmental planning.

Cooper himself stumbled into the field. As an accountant in the late 1990s, he felt pressured to "understate expenses and overstate assets."

"I was like 'yeah, I know this isn't right,'" said Cooper. Luckily, his skills included computer network building. He joined

minority-owned urban planning firm Terry A. Hayes Associates as bookkeeper and IT support. "I became fascinated with what they did, and quickly transitioned to modeling air pollution and noise impacts." At the advice of the firm's owner, Cooper got an MA in Urban Planning. "Had I not taken the job, I would've never known about urban planning."

ERP launched as a one-person firm but now has three hires and plans to expand to the full suite of common technical services for transportation projects. Beyond high-speed rail, ERP is working on exciting projects with LA Metro, LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency, Port of Long Beach and Port of San Diego.

Katta Hules

Big Goals for Small Businesses!



California small businesses play a major role towards building the statewide high-speed rail project, and in Southern California small businesses are showing a strong interest in the project and want to learn more about how their businesses can get involved. With current construction activities in the Central Valley and an aggressive 30% goal for prime contract opportunities available for statewide Small Business, Disadvantage Business Enterprise, Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise and Micro-Businesses, the Southern California regional team is working hard to spread the news about the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) Small Business Program.

Information Officer Crystal Royval, in collaboration with the Authority's statewide Small Business Program, continued small business outreach activities in the Southern California region earlier this year. The statewide Small Business Team focuses on building partnerships with organizations across the state by holding special events to assist small businesses and connecting them to high-speed rail opportunities and other major projects.

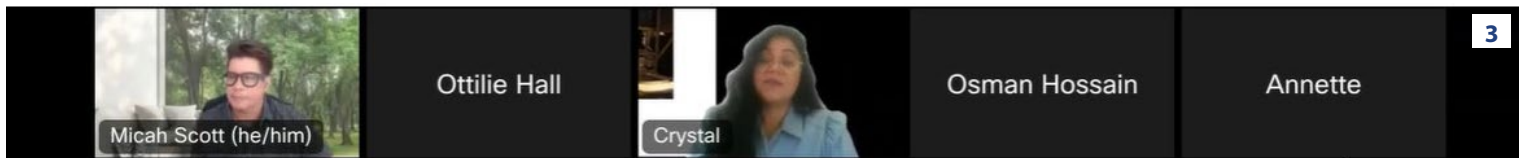
"Since June of 2022, 235 certified small businesses from Southern California have worked on the project, and the Authority is hoping to increase those numbers," said Southern California Regional Director LaDonna DiCamillo. "This is a great time for small businesses to work on our current construction project while preparing for future contract opportunities when construction activities begin in the region."

In partnership with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Royval and a member of the small business team presented virtually at the MetroConnect – How to do Business with Metro workshop and were featured presenters at the Road Tour to Caltrans Small Business Opportunities: Small Business Road Tour series. The Authority's team provided a project update and shared information about the Small Business Program. They also participated in an in-person outreach event at Caltrans' 2022 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Summit held at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood.

The Southern California regional and statewide teams will continue to partner and host events while introducing small businesses to major project opportunities. Through these outreach efforts, the Authority continues to build partnerships and spread the word about small business opportunities that are available on several major contracts in the Central Valley, including the Notice of Proposed Awards for Program Delivery Support and design contracts for the Merced to Madera.

To register your business, go to the [ConnectHSR Vendor Registration program](#).

Crystal Royval



Crystal Royval – Public Information Officer
A little bit about me!



1. Small Business Technical Associate Otilie Hall providing information about the Authority's Small Business Program at Caltrans' 2022 Disadvantage Business Enterprise Summit held at Sofi Stadium in Inglewood, California.
2. Small business owners at Caltrans' 2022 Disadvantage Business Enterprise Summit learning about the eligibility to become a certified Disadvantage Business Enterprises, contract opportunities and financial resources available to them on major infrastructure projects in California.
3. Public Information Officer Crystal Royval presenting virtually at the Caltrans Small Business Opportunities: Small Business Road Tour series.

PTAC Helps Small Businesses Become Government Contractors



California Capital has served small business clients since 1982 as a non-profit corporation empowered to administer the California Small Business Loan Guarantee Program. Over time, the organization evolved, offering services including direct lending, loan guarantees, education and technical assistance.

“Our programs are carefully designed to meet the needs of the communities they serve and are consistent with our mission to offer a wide range of flexible financial products and business development services to increase economic opportunities for underserved communities,” said Program Director Ivor Newman.

In 2014, the organization took a huge step and was designated as a Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) by the Defense Logistics Agency. The PTAC provides technical assistance and counseling services for businesses that want to contract with government entities. It serves many businesses including Veteran-



Owned Small Businesses, Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises, Women-Owned Small Businesses and Minority Business Enterprises. It provides guidance to businesses with an emphasis on preparing to identify and pursue government-contracting opportunities.

By 2021, it provided more than 1,800 clients with one-on-one business counseling and technical assistance with procurement system registrations, certifications and contracting opportunities.



3a



3b



4

1. Two PTAC small business clients meet to discuss how to team together to provide wellness and safety to projects. One Touch Training President and CEO, Deb Santana (left) is a licensed instructor with the American Heart Association Specializing in Basic Life Support (BLS) training. Lisa Duffy (right), President and CEO of London Francis, provides fingerprinting and notary services.
 2. Ralph "Skip" Masters, procurement counselor who can walk veterans through veterans' certifications, standing next to a California Capital poster.
- 3a and 3b. California Capital tabling events.
4. California Capital employee at tabling event.

Additionally, it offers workshops covering registrations, certifications, doing business with government entities and more.

The most common issues the PTAC experiences with clients are lack of government contracting capacity, market awareness and relevant past performance experience. "Government contracting is not for everyone," Newman points out. He suggests:

- Developing an approach aligning with your company's business plan that is strategic and long term;
- Being flexible—you will need persistence and perseverance;

- When presented with an opportunity, shifting all your efforts to performance; and
- Leveraging subcontracting opportunities to establish your business while increasing your market awareness and past performance.

California Capital also provides services for new and existing businesses through their Women's Business Center and Small Business Development Center. Learn more on [their website](#) and [register with the PTAC](#).

Katta Hules

Become a Certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business



Is your small business owned by a service-disabled veteran? You may be eligible for a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) certification. The certification gives businesses advantages when bidding on government contracts along with access to other resources and support through the [Vets First Verification Program](#). This program is run by the Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) and part of a federal program to award at least 3% of all federal contracting dollars to SDVOSBs annually. Effective January 1, 2023, the verification and evaluation process for SDVOSB will be handled by the Small Business Administration (SBA). Becoming a SDVOSB also makes your business eligible to compete for the program's set-aside contracts.

SDVOSBs can self-certify their status to compete for set-aside contracts at most federal agencies except for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA SDVOSB contractors must be [verified by the Center for Verification and Evaluation](#).

To qualify for the SDVOSB program, your business must:

- Be a small business according to SBA's size standards
- Be at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans
- Have one or more service-disabled veterans manage day-to-day operations who also make long-term decisions
- Eligible veterans must have a service-connected disability

Read the full eligibility requirements in [Title 13 Part 125 Subpart B of the Code of Federal Regulations](#). Learn more about the program on the [SBA Veteran assistance program page](#) as well as the [Office of Small Business Program's SDVOSB page](#).

Veterans who are not service disabled can [apply to certify their business as a Veteran-Owned Small Business \(VOSB\)](#).

Katta Hules

Hanford Viaduct



1



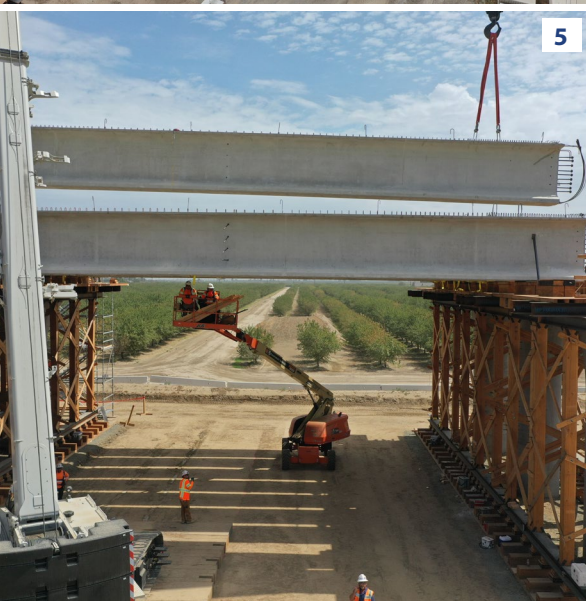
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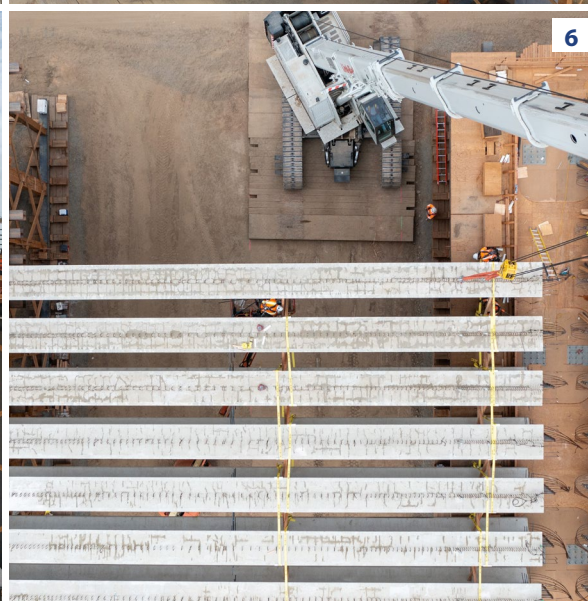
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1. *The Hanford Viaduct is located north of the city of Hanford between Grangeville Boulevard and Hanford-Armona Road, east of State Route 43.*
2. *The Hanford Viaduct will span more than a mile in length and will allow high-speed trains to cross over Grangeville Boulevard, San Joaquin Valley Railroad and State Route 198. The facility is responsible for manufacturing more than 1,300 different types of girders and nearly half a million pre-cast deck panels for various structures along the 65-mile segment.*
3. *The Hanford Viaduct is the largest high-speed rail structure in the Central Valley spanning nearly 6,330 feet long. The 40-acre facility is located on Grangeville Boulevard east of State Route 43 in Hanford, a short distance away from the Hanford Viaduct.*
4. *More than 900 pre-cast concrete girders will be needed for the superstructure.*
5. *All of the girders will be fabricated at the Dragados-Flatiron Joint Venture Pre-Cast Girder Facility just steps away from the structure.*
6. *Looking down above girder placement at the Hanford Viaduct.*



LATEST VIDEOS: WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CAHIGHSPEDRAIL

Fall 2022 Construction Update

The California High-Speed Rail Authority is celebrating the completion of three grade separations in the Central Valley.

In August, the Avenue 15 ½ Grade Separation in Madera County was open to traffic. The overpass takes vehicles over existing BNSF Rail and future high-speed rail lines.

In September and October, we opened two other grade separations in Kings County. The Jackson Avenue and Kent Avenue Grade Separations are located south of the city of Hanford and will provide cars safe passage over high-speed rail tracks.

Check out the latest construction update video, available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



Avenue 15 ½ Grade Separation in Madera County



Jackson Avenue Grade Separation



Kent Avenue Grade Separation